

~~SENSITIVE~~

CIA/SAVA /WVIND 700725



WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending 25 July 1970

NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

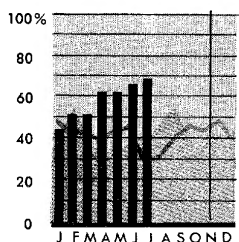
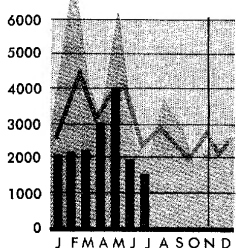
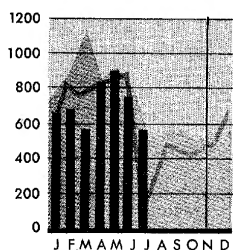
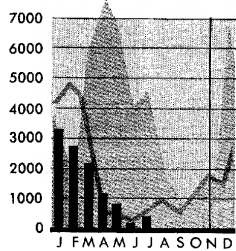
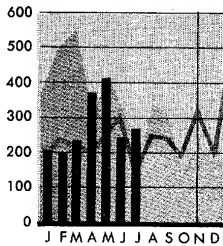
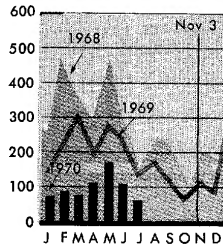
For the President Only

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SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1970

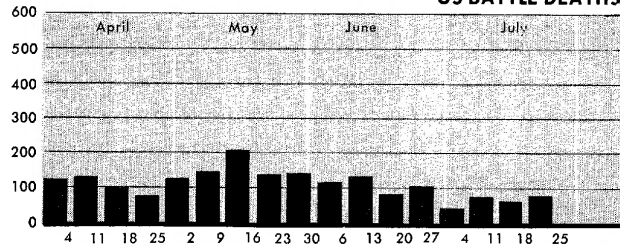
Weekly average for each month



APRIL - JULY 1970

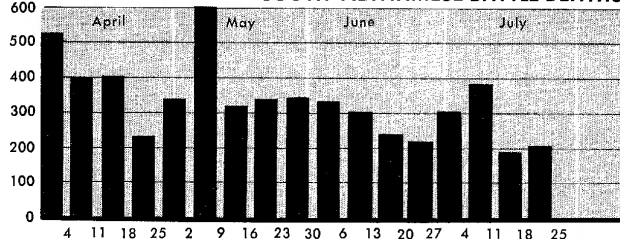
Weekly data as reported

US BATTLE DEATHS



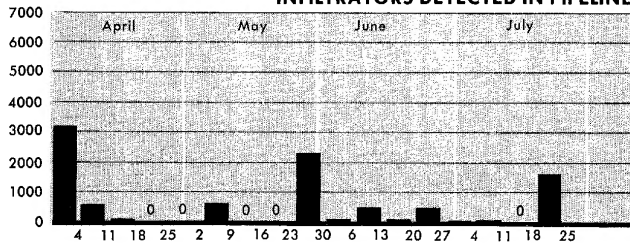
increased to 77 from last week's 66.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS



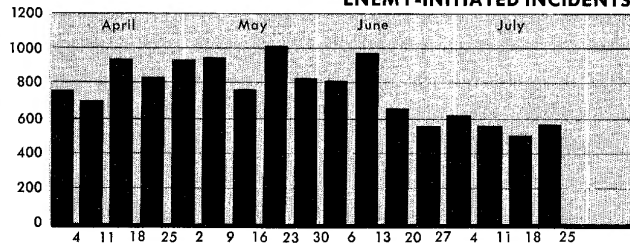
rose to 214 from last week's 190. The official total will change as late reports are received and will be lower than figures released to the press by the GVN.

INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE



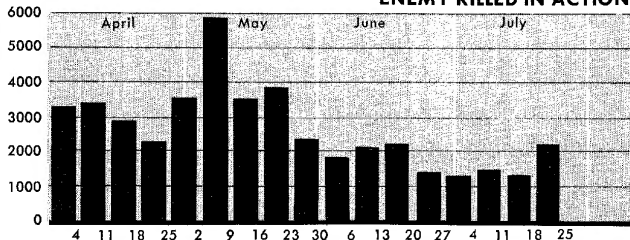
stand at three battalion-size groups, with a combined strength of over 1700. The total number of infiltrators since 23 October 1969 is now estimated to be 62,000-63,500.

ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS



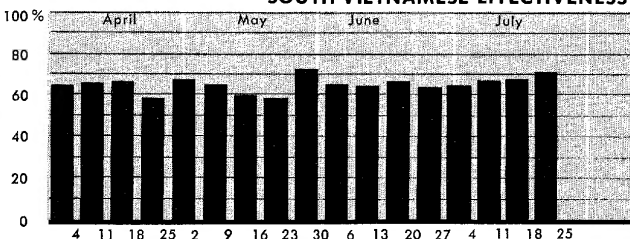
increased to 589 from last week's 506.

ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION



significantly increased to 2,240 from the 1,338 reported last week.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS



as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by RVN forces rose to 72% from last week's 67%.

Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

Enemy-initiated activity has remained at the relatively low level which has prevailed for most of the month of July. There are some indications that an increase in offensive activity is planned for early August, but this is likely to be another in the series of high points which have been initiated during the past year. There has been a build-up of enemy forces in western Quang Tri Province, however, and a document captured in northern I Military Region (MR) indicates that the enemy intends to conduct battalion-size operations in the western portion of I MR in an effort to lure Allied forces away from the lowlands so that Communist local forces will have more freedom of action. Battalion-size operations would be a marked departure from the enemy's current economy of force tactics, but Hanoi may feel the need to augment pressure markedly on the I MR lowlands in order to improve the Communist position there.

Military activity in northern Laos and the Plain of Jars area was at a low level during the week. In the Panhandle, there was sharp enemy reaction to a government operation encroaching upon enemy supply lines in central Savannakhet Province. Two of the three friendly force battalions participating in that operation came under attack on 23/24 July. Concern for the security of Khong Island in southern Military Region IV remains high, but the defensive posture of the reinforced garrison there continues to improve. On the Bolovens Plateau in central Military Region IV, the security of Paksong is being described as critical by the local Lao commander although little actual enemy activity has yet been identified in the area. Fighting continues for control of the eastern edge of the Plateau.

In Cambodia, military activity during the past week was relatively light. The Communists continue to concentrate on small-scale attacks against isolated government positions and lines of communications. Action is currently centered in the flooded region south of the Tonle Sap between Kompong Chhnang and Kompong Thom cities. In the north, the Communists are taking pains to avoid antagonizing the local villagers and are apparently enjoying some success in proselytizing the Cambodian population. South Vietnam has committed a new task force to keep Route 1 open to Phnom Penh and reportedly plans another to clear Route 7 to Kompong Cham. Recent reports indicate that the Communist forces in Cambodia are receiving supplies purchased for them in southern Laos via the Route 13/Mekong River transportation corridor.

Enemy Infiltration

Three battalion-size groups were detected during the week, with a combined strength of 1,710. This is the first positive identification of a battalion-size group since 11 June and marks the highest weekly total since 30 May. It is still too early to say whether this is the beginning of a new surge in infiltration or merely an isolated event. The total number of infiltrators since 23 October 1969 now stands at an estimated 62,000 - 63,500.

South Vietnam Developments

President Thieu has made public the proposals for a cease-fire which he had indicated privately to Ambassador Bunker last week. In a meeting with Saigon newspaper publishers on 23 July, Thieu reiterated to the publishers his belief that the Communists would not accept the proposal because "they hardly have any place to stay." The comment reflects his belief that the GVN is now strong enough in the countryside to counter the advantages which the disciplined and covert Communist structure would have in a cease-fire situation. Thieu's decision to publicize his proposal before the arrival of Ambassador Bruce was probably an effort to gain full credit for a more flexible and forthcoming position.

The GVN security organs have completed their investigations of the members of the 18 ten-man slates which registered for the 30 August Senate elections and have disqualified seven persons from six different slates. Four of the disqualified candidates were disallowed under an article of the election law relating to persons who have Communist associations or who have espoused pro-Communist neutralism. Meanwhile,

in a move which is certain to provoke domestic and probably foreign criticism if carried out, the government decided this week to seek a constitutional amendment which would eliminate the present constitutional provision for having province chiefs elected after 1971 and permit the government to continue to appoint the 44 province chiefs. The province chiefs, now all military officers, play a key role in pacification and other national programs, and the government probably assumes that elected officials would be less responsive to Saigon's direction and have less competence and experience. Thieu also counts heavily on the political support which the province chiefs can provide him.

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